

April/May 2009

Welcome to another Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum newsletter

Sammy

The Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum increased its credibility and recognition at Buckingham Palace on Friday 27th February 2009 when Prince Charles presented Sammy Miller with the MBE for services to motorcycling and his achievements in the sport. Prince Charles was interested to talk about motorcycling and the involvement and interest that Prince William has in it.

Sammy was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire medal for winning 11 British Championships in succession plus many successes in road racing, motoX racing, sand racing, grass track racing and founder of the Museum Trust which houses over 400 motorcycles and will preserve our motorcycle heritage.

Sammy was accompanied to the Palace by Rosemary his wife, and his daughter Jane and son Stuart.

Pioneer Run

Stafford Show

Pre 65 Scottish

Museum Events

Easter Steam Rally

We were a lot luckier this year with the weather and visitors who came to the Rally enjoyed the attractions in the beautiful settings of the Sammy Miller Museum.

There was a record amount of entries this year of steam engines, tractors and lorries who came from far and wide. One of the most popular attractions was the steam engines giving rides. Visitors rode around the museum complex enjoying views of the many animals – alpacas, donkeys and goats to name but a few. Also there was Rod Poynting with his wood turning and Dave Dibden's Coppice Crafts as well as Geoff Hudspith and his exquisite steam driven motorcycle and gramophone- an absolute feat of fine engineering!

Most of the engines took to the road on Sunday afternoon led by Award Winner Ken Blake on a ride out to local pub the Rising Sun. Before this awards were given out by Sammy and the winners were as follows:

Best in Show – Bryan Hunt with his 4" Showman's Engine called Simplicity
1st – M J Nealey from the Isle of Sheppey in Kent with his Foster Road Locomotive
2nd - Ray Darvell also from Kent with his 4" Foster Crane Engine

Each owner of the Steam Engines also were presented with a souvenir plaque by Sammy before they left. There were many new faces with their engines this year and they thoroughly enjoyed the event and vowed to come back next year!

We had a record turnout for the Autojumble in April with over 100 stalls and a very big crowd, another great success.

Restorations and New Additions

We are very proud of our latest addition to our Museum. The 600 Kawasaki, which Chris Martin rode to 6th place in the British Superbike Championship. The 2008 bike which the Gearlink team raced, is managed by my good friends Norma and Michael de Bidaph who are local to the Museum.

We are also now extremely honoured to have in our Racing Hall one of the ultimate Racing Motorcycles.

The 1956 350cc 3 Cylinder DKW

As raced by August Hobl and Cecil Sandford with great success. Sammy was down for a DKW Works Ride after finishing 2nd in the 1955 and 1956 Ulster Grand Prix on the NSU. Unfortunately they had to cut back, like most Racing Teams in 1957 which put an end to any chances of that Works DKW Ride.

We are indebted to the great German, Motorcycle Collector, Dieter Mutschler for the loan of this wonderful bike.